

JOINT COMMITTEE FOR HARRY S TRUMAN— COMMEMORATION OF HIS BIRTH

July 29, 1983
[H. Con. Res. 126]

Whereas the year 1984 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Harry S Truman on May 8, 1884;

Whereas Harry S Truman was born and reared in rural Missouri, enjoyed a boyhood reminiscent of Huckleberry Finn's, graduated from high school, made his living for a decade on a farm behind a plow, joined the Army in the First World War, and, as a captain, led Battery D, 129th Field Artillery, 35th Division, in combat in the Meuse-Argonne and at Verdun;

Whereas he served for a decade as judge (commissioner) of Jackson County, Missouri, and, among other responsibilities, oversaw the building of some of the first paved roads around Kansas City;

Whereas he was elected to the United States Senate and took his seat in 1935, serving as a member of the Senate Appropriations, Military Affairs, and Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committees, was instrumental in writing major pieces of legislation, including the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 and the Transportation Act of 1940, proposed and served as chairman of the Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program (the "Truman Committee"), which was estimated to have saved taxpayers billions of dollars on war contracts;

52 Stat. 973.

54 Stat. 898.

Whereas under Franklin D. Roosevelt, he served as Vice President of the United States from January 20, 1945, to April 12, 1945;

Whereas upon the death of Roosevelt on April 12, 1945, Harry S Truman was sworn in as President of the United States at the climax of the Second World War and with almost no preparation for the historic military and diplomatic problems that were piling up on the United States, including the question of using the atomic bomb to end the war against Japan quickly so as to save Japanese and American lives in the end;

Whereas with modesty, courage, and commonsense he took up the cause of opposing Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Black Sea Straits, and Iran, directed that, despite Roosevelt's sudden death, the United Nations Conference on International Organization meet in San Francisco as scheduled to establish the United Nations, and successfully recommended that the Senate approve ratification of the charter, bringing the United States into the United Nations;

Whereas he presided over the turbulent task of postwar reconversion of the economy from wartime to a peacetime production, obtained passage of the landmark Employment Act of 1946 that declared that "it is the continuing policy and responsibility of the Federal Government to use all practical means . . . functions and resources" to foster "maximum employment, production and purchasing power", prevailed upon Congress to pass the National Housing Act of 1949 to provide low-cost housing and slum clearance, won a bitter battle in Congress to keep control of nuclear weapons in civilian hands, introduced legislation for national medical insurance that was the forerunner of Medicare, which has assured adequate medical treatment for millions of Americans, unified the Armed Forces in a new Department of Defense and created modern new organs of government, including the Council

15 USC1021 note.

42 USC1441 note.

of Economic Advisers, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency;

Whereas he directed that the United States be the first nation to recognize the new State of Israel in 1948 and began the special relationship that has existed between Americans and Israelis; Whereas he ordered the racial desegregation of the armed services in 1948 and the same year submitted to Congress the first Presidential special message on civil rights, based on a report To Secure These Rights, which proved to have laid out the agenda for the civil rights reforms of the 1960's;

Whereas by his decision to institute an airlift at the time of the Soviet blockade of Berlin in 1948 and 1949, he balked an attempt by the Kremlin to dominate all of Germany, if not of Europe; Whereas under his policies the former enemy states of Japan and Germany (West Germany at least) were brought into a friendly and constructive relationship with the United States;

Whereas in 1950, he resolutely drew the line against further Communist expansionism and upheld the ideal of collective security by committing American forces—later joined by those of other members of the United Nations—to throw the invading North Korean Communist Army back to the 38th parallel in Korea, preserving South Korea, still a steadfast ally; and

Whereas he took as his slogan "The Buck Stops Here" and said in his farewell address of January 15, 1953, "I have tried to give it everything that was in me" and left office, after virtually two full terms, with employment and prosperity high and the Western World firmly allied against possible Communist aggression: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That (a) in order to provide for an appropriate commemoration by the Congress of the centennial of the birth of Harry S Truman, thirty-third President of the United States of America, there is established a Special Joint Committee on Arrangements (hereinafter referred to in this concurrent resolution as the "joint committee") which shall be composed of sixteen members as follows:

(1) The President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(2) Seven Members of the Senate to be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, four upon recommendation of the majority leader of the Senate and three upon recommendation of the minority leader of the Senate.

(3) Seven Members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three upon recommendation of the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(b) The members of the joint committee shall select a chairman and a vice chairman from among its members. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Any vacancy in the membership of the joint committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(c) For the purposes of paragraph 4 of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, service of a Senator as a member or chairman of the joint committee shall not be taken into account.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the joint committee to—

(1) make arrangements for a joint meeting of the Congress to be held on Tuesday, May 8, 1984, or such other day as may be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in

the Hall of the House of Representatives in commemoration of the centennial of the birth of Harry S Truman;

(2) plan the proceedings of and issue appropriate invitations for such joint meeting; and

(3) coordinate the joint committee's arrangements with the activities of the Truman Centennial Committee, Washington, District of Columbia.

SEC. 3. The joint committee may—

(1) appoint an executive director, who shall serve without compensation, and accept such other volunteer services of individuals as it deems appropriate;

(2) adopt rules respecting its organization and procedures; and

(3) sit and act at such times and places as it shall deem appropriate.

SEC. 4. The expenses of the joint committee under this concurrent resolution may not exceed \$25,000 and shall be paid from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the joint committee.

Agreed to July 29, 1983.

ADJOURNMENT—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE

July 29, 1983

[H. Con. Res. 153]

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on Thursday, August 4, 1983, or on Friday, August 5, 1983, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader, or his designee, in accordance with this resolution, and that when the Senate adjourns on Wednesday, August 3, 1983, or Thursday, August 4, 1983, or on Friday, August 5, 1983, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader in accordance with this resolution, they stand adjourned until 12 o'clock meridian on Monday, September 12, 1983, or until 12 o'clock meridian on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

Agreed to July 29, 1983.

CARL HAYDEN—BUST PLACEMENT IN CAPITOL OR SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Aug. 1, 1983

[S. Con. Res. 7]

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in honor of Carl Hayden, who served in the United States Congress longer than any other man in history, the Joint Committee on the Library (hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Committee") is